

# Washington State Patrol

## Media Release

*Chief John R. Batiste*



### Office of the State Fire Marshal

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**\*\* For immediate release\*\***

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### Fire Mobilization Ordered for the Valley Mill Fire

State fire assistance has been mobilized in support of local firefighters who are working to contain a wild fire which is burning south of Chewelah, in Valley, Washington, Stevens County.

Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste authorized the State Fire Services Mobilization Plan at 6:45 p.m. on August 8, 2006.

This fire started approximately 1:30 pm on August 8, 2006 in Stevens County. Stevens County fire officials reported that approximately 400 acres have burned, as well as several structures. Approximately 100 homes are threatened. Evacuations have taken place and the Red Cross has established a temporary shelter at the Loon Lake High School.

The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Camp Murray remains at Phase II, Enhanced Operations, to coordinate state assistance for the Valley Mill fire. Staff from the Washington State Patrol's Fire Protection Bureau is en route to the fire.

Under the mobilization plan, the Fire Protection Bureau will be coordinating the initial dispatch of firefighters, engines, water tenders, and helicopters. A Type 2 Incident Management Team has been ordered. Five strike teams of wild land engines from Spokane, Pierce, King, Douglas, Chelan, and Grant Counties are responding to the scene.

The eastern part of Washington has been under a Red Flag warning due to the potential for lightning and high winds.

The State Fire Services Mobilization Plan is implemented to provide personnel, equipment and other resources from around the state when wildfires exceed the firefighting capacity of local jurisdictions. More information regarding the mobilization plan is available at:

<http://www.wa.gov/wsp/fire/mobeplan/emobplan.htm>

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